In the Matter of:

MAGGIE RUSSELL

VS

MISS. GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RUSSELL, MAGGIE March 29, 2023



844.533.DEPO

EXHIBIT 417"

MAGGIE RUSSELL vs MISS. GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE Maggie Russell - 03/29/2023

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI			
2	SOUTHERN DIVISION			
3				
4	MAGGIE RUSSELL PLAINTIFF			
5	VS. 1:22-CV-00086-TBM-RPM			
6	MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY			
7	COLLEGE through its Board of Trustees (in their official			
8	capacities) and DOES 1-20; inclusive DEFENDANTS			
9				
10	DEPOSITION OF MAGGIE RUSSELL			
11				
12	Taken at the offices of Boyce Holleman &			
13	Associates, 1720 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi, on Wednesday, March 29, 2023,			
14	beginning at 10:30 a.m.			
15				
16				
17				
18	REPORTED BY:			
19	Kati Vogt, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR MS CSR #1557 NCRA #052536			
20	eDeposition Reporting Services Post Office Box 14148			
21	Jackson, Mississippi 39236 kati.vogt@edeposition.com			
22	Mobile: (228) 860-5111 844-533-3376			
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1	APPEARANCES	
2		
3	REPRESENTING THE PLAINTIFF:	
4	KEITH ALTMAN, ESQ.	
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8	REPRESENTING THE DEFENDANT:	
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10	Daniel Coker Horton & Bell, P.A. 1712 15th Street, Suite 400	
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12	kbrown@danielcoker.com hsalamone@danielcoker.com	
13	HOLLIS TAYLOR HOLLEMAN, ESQ.	
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16	norrasedoy cenorreman. com	
17	ALSO PRESENT:	
18	Jason Pugh	
19	oason ragn	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

MAGGIE RUSSELL vs MISS. GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE Maggie Russell - 03/29/2023

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1	STIPULATION
2	It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and
3	between the parties hereto, through their
4	respective attorneys of record, that this
5	deposition may be taken at the time and place
6	hereinbefore set forth, by Kati Vogt, RPR, RMR,
7	CRR, RDR, Court Reporter and Notary Public,
8	pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
9	as amended;
10	That the formality of reading and signing is
11	specifically RESERVED;
12	That all objections, except as to the form of
13	the questions and the responsiveness of the
14	answers, are reserved until such time as this
15	deposition, or any part thereof, may be used or is
16	sought to be used in evidence.
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1	MAGGIE RUSSELL,
2	having been first duly sworn, was
3	examined and testified as follows:
4	EXAMINATION
5	
6	BY MS. BROWN:
7	Q. Good morning, Maggie. We met just a few
8	minutes ago. My name is Kristi Brown, and I
9	represent the community college in this lawsuit.
10	A. Okay.
11	Q. This is Hollis Holleman. He also
12	represents the community college, and Hunter
13	Salamone who works with me in my office and is here
14	to help me today.
15	A. Okay.
16	Q. Okay. And I heard Keith tell you that
17	this is the court reporter that's going to be
18	taking down everything we say.
19	A. Uh-huh.
20	Q. And then Dr. Pugh is here from the
21	college.
22	THE WITNESS: Hi.
23	BY MS. BROWN:
24	Q. I know you've probably never given a
25	deposition before, have you?

- 1 A. No.
- Q. Okay. This is going to be easy, because
- 3 I'm asking you questions that you know the answer
- 4 to.
- 5 A. Okay.
- 6 Q. And you just have to tell me what the
- 7 answer is. Okay?
- 8 Can you state your full name for the
- 9 record?
- 10 A. Maggie Susan Russell.
- 11 Q. Okay. Now, I'm going to ask you some
- 12 questions. If you'll let me finish asking my
- 13 question before you start answering so we don't
- 14 talk over each other --
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. -- that will make it easier for our court
- 17 reporter to get everything down.
- 18 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 19 Q. Okay. And you're doing great so far, but
- 20 yeses and nos are good.
- 21 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 22 Q. Sometimes we say "nuh-uh" or "uh-huh,"
- 23 but we can't read what those mean later.
- 24 A. Right.
- 25 Q. I'll try to remind you, because everybody

1	does it.	Okay?
2	А.	Yes, ma'am.
3	Q.	Thank you.
4		Now, I'm going to ask you questions. If
5	you don't	understand a question I ask you, tell me
6	you don't	understand it, and I'll try to ask it a
7	different	way. Okay?
8	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
9	Q.	You're not going to hurt my feelings.
10	You're no	t being rude if you tell me you don't
11	understan	d my question, because sometimes I ask bad
12	questions	•
13	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
14	Q.	Okay. Is there any reason that you can't
15	answer qu	estions for me today?
16	А.	No, ma'am.
17	Q.	Okay. Have you had any medicine today?
18	А.	Yes.
19	Q.	Would that medicine affect your ability
20	to answer	my questions?
21	Α.	No, ma'am.
22	Q.	Okay. What is your current address?
23	Α.	153
24		MR. ALTMAN: Wait, hold on one second.
25		Can we not put that directly on the

1	transcript? Can we get that just get that
2	to you? I just hate having people's
3	identifying information on the transcript.
4	MS. BROWN: Sure.
5	MR. ALTMAN: We'll if you want to
6	give it to her right now off the record
7	MS. BROWN: Okay.
8	MR. ALTMAN: then go ahead. But just
9	off the record for the address, if that's
10	okay.
11	MS. BROWN: Sure.
12	(Off the record.)
13	BY MS. BROWN:
14	Q. Okay. That's in Harrison County?
15	A. Yes, ma'am.
16	Q. Okay. Have you lived in Harrison County
17	your whole life?
18	A. Yes, ma'am.
19	Q. How old are you?
20	A. I'm 25.
21	Q. Okay. What's your birthday?
22	A. July 9th.
23	Q. Of what year?
24	A. 1997.
25	Q. Okay. Do you know how long you've lived

1	at that house where you just gave me the address?
2	A. At least two years, that I believe.
3	Q. Okay. But before that, you still lived
4	in Gulfport?
5	A. Yes.
6	Q. Okay. You who lives at that house
7	with you?
8	A. My mom and my dad and my cat.
9	Q. Okay. What's your mom's name?
10	A. Susan Carol Russell.
11	Q. What's your dad's name?
12	A. Bobby Max Russell, Jr.
13	Q. And what's your cat's name?
14	A. Smokey.
15	Q. Okay. Does your mom work outside the
16	home?
17	A. No, ma'am.
18	Q. Does your dad?
19	A. He does work. He used to be in the Air
20	Force, but now he's a civilian computer person.
21	Q. Okay. So he worked does he work from
22	home?
23	A. He doesn't work from home. He goes to
24	the base every day to fix computers.
25	Q. Okay. At Keesler?

Not at Keesler. I think -- it's the 1 Α. 2 one -- the base by Gulfport. The Seabee base? 3 0. Yeah, I think -- wait, no. That's not 4 Α. 5 the Seabee base. I am sorry. I forgot the name of the base, but it's by the airport. 6 7 Q. Okay. Then the National Guard base. Ι 8 don't know the name of it either. And you don't have to be sorry for forgetting that. 9 10 Now, you grew up or lived in Harrison 11 At some point you lived in Biloxi? County. 12 Α. Yes. 13 Is that where you went to high school? Q. 14 Α. Yes. 15 Q. Where did you go to elementary school? 16 I went to two different elementary Α. 17 schools. One was in Bayou View, which was in 18 Gulfport, before Hurricane Katrina struck. 19 then after Katrina, we moved to Biloxi, and I went 20 to Popps Ferry. 21 Where did you go to middle school? Q. Okay. 22 Biloxi Junior High. Α. Okay. And then to Biloxi High School? 23 Q. 24 Yes, ma'am. Α. And those are -- are those the only 25 Q.

schools you went to before you graduated from high 1 2 school? 3 Yes, ma'am. Α. What year did you graduate from high 4 Q. school? 5 6 Α. 2015. 7 When you were at Bayou View, do you Q. 8 remember did you have tutors and help at school? 9 Α. Yes, ma'am. Okay. So you've had that since you 10 0. 11 started in kindergarten? 12 Α. Yes. 13 Do you know what the reason you 0. Okay. 14 had tutors at school was? 15 I can remember that my hand coordination Α. 16 was really bad, that I couldn't hold straws. And I 17 couldn't speak more than 25 words. 18 0. Okay. And basically I just remember speech 19 Α. 20 classes and getting classes for my hand 21 coordination. 22 Was that like a therapist that helped you with your coordination? 23 24 Α. Yes, ma'am. 25 And a speech therapist? Q.

1 Α. Yes, ma'am. 2 0. Do you -- did you have any other therapist or counselor maybe that you talked to? 3 4 I don't remember. I'm sorry. Α. 5 Q. It's okay. 6 What was your favorite subject in 7 elementary school? 8 Α. Art. I bet that's going to be the 9 0. Art? Yeah? same answer all the way through school, isn't it? 10 11 Yes, ma'am. Α. Do you like to read? 12 0. 13 Α. I do. 14 What kind of books do you like to read? 0. I like to read mythology books, science 15 Α. 16 fiction books, anything that has imagination, and like to be creative. 17 18 Okay. Do you read those books and then 19 draw pictures from them? Α. 20 Yes, ma'am. 21 Do you know what an individualized 0. 22 education plan is? 23 Α. I do not know that, ma'am. 24 Okay. Do you know -- I know you said you Q. 25 had trouble with hand-eye coordination and speech.

1	A. Yes, ma'am.
2	Q. Do you know of any other learning
3	disabilities that you have?
4	A. Yes, ma'am.
5	Q. What are those?
6	A. I have trouble with math. I can't do
7	measurements. I can't really drive because of my
8	sensory, loud noises, fear of people. I've been
9	through a lot, honestly.
10	Q. Okay. Tell me about the loud noises. Is
11	it car horns or
12	A. Car horns, loud noises like construction
13	work. Basically those things.
14	Q. Okay.
15	A. Like, really loud noises.
16	Q. And you've always had that fear?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. Okay. And you said fear of people?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. Have you always had that fear?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Being in crowds?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. Okay. You do okay at school in, like,
25	the hallway?

1	Α.	Not really, but I had to put on a brave
2	face.	
3	Q.	Okay. What about in the classroom when
4	it was ju	st you and your other classmates?
5	A.	I got bullied a lot in school.
6	Q.	Yeah?
7	Α.	Yeah.
8	Q.	Was that tough?
9	Α.	It is.
10	Q.	It's okay.
11	Α.	I'm sorry.
12	Q.	No, no reason to apologize.
13		MR. ALTMAN: You're doing great.
14	BY MS. BF	ROWN:
15	Q.	You're doing a great job.
16	Α.	Thank you.
17	Q.	I'm just trying to learn some
18	informati	on, okay? I'm not here to upset you.
19	A.	No problem. It's just talking about my
20	past is p	painful.
21	Q.	I understand.
22		So you said you had trouble with math?
23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	Did you get help at school with math?
25	Α.	Yes. I stayed after school with tutors.

1	Q.	Okay. When you were in high school and
2	you staye	ed after school, who was your tutor?
3	Α.	Mr. Garrett. Matthew Garrett.
4	Q.	Okay.
5	Α.	He was really nice.
6	Q.	Yeah? Did he help you a lot?
7	Α.	He did.
8	Q.	Was he your tutor all through high
9	school?	
10	A.	Mostly tenth grade through junior, like
11	11th grad	le, because at the time, we were supposed
12	to take t	these tests with SATPs and all that stuff.
13	Q.	So he was helping you get ready for those
14	tests?	
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	Okay. Did you take those tests?
17	A.	Yes. And I failed.
18	Q.	Yeah?
19	A.	Miserably.
20	Q.	How many times did you take it?
21	A.	Four times that I can remember.
22	Q.	And you just couldn't pass any of those
23	times?	
24	A.	No.
25	Q.	But you were able to graduate from high

1	school?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Do you know how that happened?
4	A. Because there was a new law that says
5	that if you pass three out of four, then I was able
6	to graduate. And I was able to pass my English and
7	science and history.
8	Q. Okay. Did you have any other math tutors
9	in high school besides Mr. Garrett?
10	A. My Special Ed teacher.
11	Q. Who was that?
12	A. She helped me with the math. Ms. Barnes.
13	Q. Okay. Do you happen to know what doctor
14	or psychologist diagnosed you with your learning
15	disabilities?
16	A. No, ma'am.
17	Q. In high school were you in regular math
18	classes with the tutor, or did you have special
19	math classes?
20	A. Regular, even though they knew about my
21	disabilities.
22	Q. But you had the tutor?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. Okay. Took lots of art classes in high
25	school?

1	A. Yes, ma'am. Art is my life.
2	Q. Yeah?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Do you like to draw with crayons or
5	colored pencils or paint?
6	A. I like to do multiple mediums. I do
7	colored pencils, acrylics, oil pastels, ink pens,
8	like black ink. Those are my favorite ones.
9	Q. Okay. Do you remember what you made in
10	Algebra I in high school, what your grade was?
11	A. All I remember is it was a very low
12	grade; but I don't know the number specifically.
13	Q. Do you remember taking Algebra II your
14	senior year of high school?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. Do you remember what your grade was?
17	A. It was below 70.
18	Q. But it was passing?
19	A. Barely.
20	Q. You worked hard to get through that,
21	though, didn't you?
22	A. I did my best.
23	Q. Were you proud of yourself for getting
24	through that?
25	A. Yeah.

1	Q.	Yeah.
2		Do you know who Mr and I'm probably
3	going to	mispronounce his name Dedual?
4	A.	Yes, I know him.
5	Q.	Who is he?
6	A.	I met him through my Aunt Debbie, and he
7	helped me	in college, tutoring.
8	Q.	Okay. Did he help you in high school at
9	all?	
10	A.	During my senior year.
11	Q.	Okay.
12	A.	He was offering tutoring.
13	Q.	Okay. Was that outside of school, like
14	after	at home?
15	A.	Not at home, but at the college.
16	Q.	Okay.
17	Α.	He helped me with the numbers.
18	Q.	Okay. Did he work at the college?
19	A.	He did.
20	Q.	Okay. Did he teach any of your classes
21	at the co	llege?
22	A.	No.
23	Q.	Never had him as a teacher?
24	Α.	No, ma'am.
25	Q.	Do you remember taking the ACT?

- 33 -	3.
1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Did you how many times did you take
3	it?
4	A. Three times that I can remember.
5	Q. Do you remember what your scores were?
6	A. I remember one of them. And it was,
7	like, 15.
8	Q. Yeah?
9	A. Yeah.
10	Q. Do you did you ever look at the report
11	to see what you scored on the language portion?
12	A. I remember only looking at one report,
13	and it said all of my weaknesses, and it made me
14	feel really bad.
15	Q. Okay. So when you were in high school,
16	did you plan on going to college?
17	A. Yes.
18	Q. Okay. So when you were in high school,
19	your goal was to go to college?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. And did you have a college you really
22	wanted to go to?
23	A. Not really. I just wanted to go to
24	college to expand my knowledge on art.
25	Q. Did you look at art schools?

1	Α.	No, ma'am.
2	Q.	Okay. Did you want to stay close to
3	home?	
4	Α.	Yes.
5	Q.	Okay. So did you only apply to
6	Mississi	opi Gulf Coast Community College?
7	Α.	Yes.
8	Q.	Okay. And you were accepted?
9	Α.	Yes.
10	Q.	Was that an exciting day?
11	Α.	It was.
12	Q.	Yeah?
13	Α.	It was a great day.
14	Q.	When did you start at Mississippi Gulf
15	Coast Con	mmunity College?
16	Α.	August 2015. I remember because it was a
17	few month	ns after I graduated high school.
18	Q.	So you graduated from high school in the
19	spring, a	and then you had summer
20	Α.	May, yeah.
21	Q.	In May? And then you had summer
22	vacation	
23	Α.	Yes.
24	Q.	And then you started college in the fall?
25	Α.	Yes.

1	Q.	And were you excited about going to
2	college or	r were you scared about going to college?
3	A.	It was a bit of both.
4	Q.	Yeah?
5	A.	Happy and scared.
6	Q.	Okay. Did you take a tour of the campus
7	before you	ı started?
8	Α.	Yes.
9	Q.	Tell me about the tour of the campus.
10	Α.	Ms. Aimee, my counselor at the time, she
11	gave me a	good tour of the college.
12	Q.	Is that Ms. Aimee McGehee?
13	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
14	Q.	Okay. So she showed you around?
15	Α.	Yes.
16	Q.	You don't drive?
17	Α.	No, ma'am.
18	Q.	So how did you get to school?
19	A.	My mom always drove me to school.
20	Q.	And she would drop you off?
21	Α.	Yes.
22	Q.	And then were you able to navigate or
23	make your	way around campus?
24	Α.	Yes, because I have a little map with me.
25	Q.	So you could tell which buildings your

1	classes were in?
2	A. Yes, ma'am.
3	Q. And how to get there?
4	A. Yes.
5	Q. Okay. How many classes did you take in
6	the fall of 2015?
7	A. I don't know. I don't remember. I'm
8	sorry.
9	Q. It's okay.
10	When you were registering and went to
11	school, did you take just one or two classes a
12	semester, or did you take a full load?
13	A. I believe it was full load.
14	Q. So like three or four classes?
15	A. Yes, ma'am.
16	Q. Okay. Did you take any math classes your
17	first year of college?
18	A. I don't remember.
19	Q. Okay.
20	A. It's been a long time.
21	Q. I know it has. It has. It's been almost
22	ten years.
23	What was your goal when you went to
24	college?
25	A. I wanted to be an art therapist

originally, but my plans have changed. 1 2 0. What are they now? I want to make more books, kids' stories. 3 Α. That's what I'm passionate about. 4 When did you change that plan? 5 Q. 6 I think it was two years ago. Α. 7 And is it -- did you change because that Q. 8 was what your passion was? 9 Α. Yes. 10 Any other reason for that change? 0. 11 Α. No. Okay. You said "more books." 12 Have you 0. 13 made a book? 14 I made a book called Artism and Me, Α. Autism Within My Heart in Color, back in 2019. 15 16 And did you write the book or just 0. 17 draw -- is it a picture book? 18 It's a picture book. And I wrote it Α. 19 myself, and I illustrated it myself. 20 Q. That's really cool. 21 Thank you. Α. 22 And did it get published? Q. 23 Α. It did. It's on Amazon, Kobo, Google 24 Play, 120 different websites. 25 Do you know how many copies of that Q. Wow.

1	book	you'	ve sold?
2		Α.	No, ma'am.
3		Q.	No? Do you you've made some money
4	from	that	book?
5		A.	A little bit.
6		Q.	Do you know how much?
7		A.	No, ma'am.
8		Q.	Okay. Who takes care of the money?
9		A.	I my parents.
10		Q.	So mom and dad know how much money you've
11	made	from	that book?
12		A.	Yes.
13		Q.	Okay. What does an art therapist do?
14		A.	They use art to help other people who
15	have	been	in bad situations or traumatic
16	situa	ations	5.
17		Q.	Okay. Do you know is that a four-year
18	degre	e, to	be an art therapist?
19		A.	I believe so.
20		Q.	Okay. Where were you going to go get
21	that	degre	ee?
22		A.	Originally I wanted to go to William
23	Carey	, but	I changed my mind.
24		Q.	When did you change your mind?
25		A.	Before I was going to get my college

- 1 degree from MGCCC.
- 2 Q. So sometime while you were at MGCCC, you
- 3 changed your mind about going to William Carey?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Did you ever visit William Carey?
- 6 A. I did.
- 7 Q. Okay. Is that what made you change your
- 8 mind?
- 9 A. Yes. I realized that my limitations,
- 10 it's gotten too hard for me.
- 11 Q. Tell me about that. What limitations?
- 12 How has it gotten hard?
- 13 A. I have reading comprehension, which is
- 14 basically I read something on paper, like, multiple
- 15 times and I still don't understand it.
- 16 Q. Okay. So has it always been that way, or
- 17 is that getting worse?
- 18 A. It's always been that way, and it's
- 19 getting worse.
- 20 Q. Okay. Did you have help from tutors when
- 21 you were in high school and at Mississippi Gulf
- 22 Coast?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. With reading and reading comprehension?
- 25 A. Yes.

A. Yes. Q. Have you talked to a publisher about publishing another book? A. Not yet, but I hope so soon. Can you tell me what the name of that
<pre>4 publishing another book? 5 A. Not yet, but I hope so soon.</pre>
5 A. Not yet, but I hope so soon.
<u> </u>
6 Q. Can you tell me what the name of that
7 book the new book is?
8 A. The book title, I haven't come up with
9 name yet, but it's going to be about birds and
10 flowers from all 50 states of America.
11 Q. And you're drawing those?
12 A. I drew 25 illustrations so far.
Q. Okay. Twenty-five flowers, 25 birds?
14 A. They're all in one paper.
15 Q. Okay.
16 A. One state bird and one state flower of
17 the same state in the same picture.
Q. On the same piece of paper?
19 A. Yes.
Q. Are you going alphabetically or just
21 picking a stick?
22 A. Just picking a stick. It makes it fun
23 that way.
Q. Yeah?
25 A. Yeah.

1	Q.	Do you just look at the map and decide
2	which one	's next?
3	Α.	Yes.
4	Q.	Have you done Mississippi?
5	Α.	Yes, I have.
6	Q.	Yeah? Is that the first one you did?
7	Α.	Yes, that was the very first thing.
8	Q.	Yeah?
9		Which one is your favorite state flower?
10	A.	So far, besides our state, it's Alabama.
11	Q.	What is their state flower?
12	A.	Woodpecker and a red flower.
13	Q.	Yeah?
14	A.	I don't remember the name of the red
15	flower, b	ut I do know Alabama's the only state that
16	has woodp	ecker as their state bird.
17	Q.	Yeah?
18	Α.	Yes.
19	Q.	Is that fun to draw?
20	A.	It is.
21	Q.	Does it have a red head?
22	Α.	It has little yellow wings and spots,
23	actually.	
24	Q.	Okay. Not a red-headed woodpecker?
25	Α.	No.

1	Q.	Okay. Do you like birds and flowers?
2	А.	I do.
3	Q.	Do you sit outside and watch the birds?
4	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
5	Q.	Do y'all have a hummingbird feeder at
6	your hous	e?
7	A.	Yes, ma'am.
8	Q.	Yeah?
9	A.	We just got it yesterday.
10	Q.	Yeah? It's time for those, isn't it?
11	A.	Yes, ma'am.
12	Q.	Do you plant flowers with Mom?
13	Α.	Dad, actually.
14	Q.	Oh, with Dad?
15	Α.	Yeah.
16	Q.	What kind of flowers did you plant?
17	A.	We plant sunflowers and poppies and
18	daisies a	nd lilies.
19	Q.	Yes?
20	Α.	Those kind of flowers.
21	Q.	Do you just watch them in the yard, or do
22	you cut t	hem and bring them inside?
23	Α.	I watch Dad plant them first, and then I
24	help wate	er them.
25	Q.	Yeah?

1	A.	Yes.
2	Q.	They haven't started blooming yet, have
3	they?	
4	Α.	No.
5	Q.	No?
6	Α.	Not yet.
7	Q.	Not time. Do you and Dad do anything
8	else besi	des plant flowers and water them?
9	Α.	We watch movies together.
10	Q.	Yeah?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	What kind of movies?
13	Α.	We watch Avengers and all that good
14	stuff.	
15	Q.	What's your favorite movie?
16	Α.	My favorite all time movie is Thor.
17	Q.	Yes?
18	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
19	Q.	When you started at Mississippi Gulf
20	Coast Com	munity College, did you declare a major?
21	Α.	Oh, yes. I always wanted to be an artist
22	from day	one, the moment I picked up a crayon.
23	Q.	Yeah?
24	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
25	Q.	You knew when you went to college, you

1	were goin	g to have to take some more math classes,
2	right?	
3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	Okay. And we talked about Ms. Aimee a
5	minute ag	o. She was your counselor?
6	A.	Yes, ma'am.
7	Q.	And did you talk to her about the math
8	classes?	
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	Okay. Did you know that you were going
11	to have t	o take College Algebra to get a degree?
12	A.	Yes.
13	Q.	Yes? Did you enroll in College Algebra?
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	Do you remember who your teacher was?
16	A.	I only remember my Intermediate Algebra
17	teacher,	Mr. McLendon.
18	Q.	Okay. Did you like him?
19	A.	I like him a lot. He was very nice.
20	Q.	Did you pass that class?
21	A.	Yes.
22	Q.	Okay.
23		THE WITNESS: Mr. Keith, is it okay if I
24	take	a break for a moment?
25		MS. BROWN: Absolutely it is.

			<u> </u>
	1		MR. ALTMAN: Sure.
	2		THE WITNESS: I'm going to the restroom.
	3		MR. ALTMAN: Okay.
	4		THE WITNESS: I'll be right back.
	5		MS. BROWN: We'll take a comfort break.
	6		THE WITNESS: Thank you.
	7	(Off	the record.)
	8	BY MS. BRO	OWN:
	9	Q.	I don't think we're going to be all that
	10	much longe	er. Okay?
	11	Α.	Okay.
	12	Q.	But you're doing a great job so far.
	13	Α.	Thank you. I'm just really nervous.
	14	Q.	I know it. I know. Because you've never
	15	done this	before. But you're doing really well.
	16	Α.	Thank you.
	17	Q.	Okay. So you passed Mr. McLendon's
	18	class?	
	19	Α.	Barely.
	20	Q.	Do you remember your grade?
	21	Α.	No, ma'am.
	22	Q.	Okay. Do you remember enrolling in a
	23	College A	lgebra class that was four hours?
	24	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
	25	Q.	That do you know that it was College
-1			

```
Algebra 1314? Did you know that?
 1
 2
          Α.
               No, ma'am.
 3
               Okay. In that four-hour class, how was
          0.
     it different? Do you remember how it was different
 4
     than a regular class?
 5
 6
          Α.
               Oh, yes, I remember.
                                      It was the summer
 7
     class.
 8
          Q.
               Okay.
 9
               And the teacher was not very nice.
          Α.
10
     he spent most of his time arguing with the other
11
     kids instead of teaching us. And when I did do a
12
     math test, he ignored my disabilities and said, you
13
     know, try again, with even more questions on them,
14
     even though my accommodation said less questions,
15
     reduce the number.
16
               Okay. Do you remember the name of that
          0.
17
     teacher?
18
          Α.
               No, ma'am.
                            I'm sorry.
19
               That's okay.
          0.
20
               Did you talk to Ms. Aimee about that
21
     class?
22
               Yes, ma'am.
          Α.
               Do you remember what you talked to her
23
          0.
24
     about?
```

I told her about how the teacher was not

25

Α.

- 1 very nice.
- Q. Okay. What did she say?
- 3 A. She told me I could withdraw anytime, and
- 4 I did.
- 5 Q. Okay. Did she talk to you -- did you
- 6 talk to her about the accommodations for that
- 7 class?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What were your accommodations?
- 10 A. I -- my -- I'm supposed to have the
- 11 questions read out loud by the teacher or
- instructor, because of reading comprehension; I'm
- 13 allowed to have a calculator next to me; and the
- 14 numbers of the problems are supposed to be reduced.
- 15 Q. Okay. Meaning you're not supposed to
- 16 have as many questions on your test?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Who told you that?
- 19 A. My accommodations. It's been like that
- 20 for my entire life with my IEP.
- 21 Q. Okay. Do you know what an IEP is?
- 22 A. I know the gist of it, but really I don't
- 23 understand it.
- Q. Okay. Did Ms. Aimee read the questions
- 25 out to you for a lot of your tests?

1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q.	All of your tests, or just some of them?
3	A.	All of my tests.
4	Q.	Okay. So she read your questions for
5	your Colle	ege Algebra?
6	A.	Yes.
7	Q.	Okay. When she was reading them, did you
8	ask her al	bout the number of questions?
9	A.	Yes.
10	Q.	And
11	A.	I I'm sorry.
12	Q.	It's okay. I interrupted you. Go ahead.
13	A.	I was about to say yes, she read, you
14	know, all	the questions, and I asked her a lot of
15	questions	about them.
16	Q.	Okay. Do you remember you withdrew
17	from that	class?
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	Do you remember how long you were in the
20	class befo	ore you withdrew?
21	A.	I don't remember.
22	Q.	Okay. Did you talk to Ms. Aimee about
23	what you	could do other than College Algebra?
24	A.	Yes.
25	Q.	Did you ask her for additional
1		

1	accommodations?	
2	А.	Yes.
3	Q.	What did you ask her for?
4	А.	I asked her about pencil and paper. Some
5	of the te	sts were, like, on computer, and I didn't
6	like that	•
7	Q.	Okay. And what did she say when you
8	asked abo	out pencil and paper?
9	А.	She said that she'll get me some pencil
10	and paper	•
11	Q.	Did she do that?
12	А.	Yes.
13	Q.	Okay. Any other requests for
14	accommoda	tions?
15	А.	No.
16	Q.	Just the pencil and paper?
17	А.	Yes.
18	Q.	Okay. Did you ever talk to Ms. Aimee or
19	anybody a	t the college about waiving College
20	Algebra?	
21	А.	Yes.
22	Q.	Okay. Were you asking that it be waived,
23	or were y	ou asking for a supplement or a different
24	course?	
25	А.	Originally it was supposed to be a

1	different course, but
2	Q. And what happened when you asked for a
3	different course?
4	A. It turns out it had more math that I
5	wasn't really able to do.
6	Q. What did?
7	A. It was Quantitative Reasoning, which is
8	like web design, but was more math, like calculus.
9	Q. Did you take Quantitative Reasoning?
10	A. I didn't take it.
11	Q. Did you sign up for it at all?
12	A. No, ma'am.
13	Q. Okay. So you rejected that class?
14	A. Yes, ma'am.
15	Q. Did they offer you Physical Science?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. Did you take that class?
18	A. There's I don't remember. I'm sorry.
19	Q. That's okay.
20	A. It's been such a long time ago.
21	Q. But they offered you several different
22	options, correct?
23	A. Yes. Yes.
24	Q. And did you pick one of those options?
25	A. I did take the Economics.

1	Q. Okay. So you took Economics?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And if I told you that you took Physical
4 S	cience, you just don't remember, would you agree
5 w:	ith there?
6	A. Yeah, I just don't remember.
7	Q. Okay. And there was one more class you
8 ne	eeded to take, right?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. What was that?
11	A. I don't remember.
12	Q. Visual Basic programming?
13	A. That sounds familiar.
14	Q. Okay. And you never signed up for that
15 c	lass, right?
16	A. No, ma'am.
17	Q. Why not?
18	A. Because it had more algebra in it, and my
19 b:	rain is basically finished with numbers.
20	Q. You didn't try to take the class, though,
21 r	ight?
22	A. Right. Yes.
23	Q. Okay. You knew you had to do that to get
24 a	degree from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community
25 C	ollege, right?

```
Objection; form.
                                                You can
 1
               MR. ALTMAN:
 2
          answer.
 3
          Α.
               Yes.
     BY MS. BROWN:
 4
                      And we're here today because you
 5
               Okay.
          Q.
     filed a lawsuit against the college because you
 6
 7
     didn't get a degree, right?
 8
          Α.
               Right.
 9
               Okay. And did you do everything you
          0.
10
     needed to do to get a degree?
11
          Α.
               Yes.
12
               How do you think that?
          0.
13
               I worked on my art classes.
          Α.
                                              I...
14
               MR. ALTMAN:
                             Take it easy.
                                             Relax.
15
          Relax.
16
               I tried math tutors.
                                      I tried
          Α.
17
     after-college school tutors. And the numbers still
18
     keep swimming in papers. I just know I tried.
     BY MS. BROWN:
19
               And you did really well, right?
20
          Q.
21
          Α.
               I did.
22
               But you've got one more class you need to
          Q.
     take. Would you be willing to take that one last
23
24
     class?
25
               I can't take any more.
          Α.
```

1	Q.	You don't want to take any more classes?
2	Α.	No, ma'am.
3	Q.	Don't want to go to college any more?
4	A.	No, ma'am.
5	Q.	And you don't plan to go anywhere else to
6	college?	
7	A.	No, ma'am.
8	Q.	Okay. When you talked to Ms. McGehee
9	Ms. Aimee	about your accommodations, was she always
10	helpful?	
11	A.	She was.
12	Q.	Okay. Do you remember going to the
13	Office of	Civil Rights?
14	A.	Yes.
15	Q.	Can you tell me about that?
16	A.	The OCR. They were responding to, you
17	know, our	complaint, and they were trying to do,
18	you know	do their job, but it's another
19	Q.	Here you go, sweetie.
20	A.	Thank you. I'm sorry.
21	Q.	No, don't apologize?
22		MR. ALTMAN: Relax.
23	A.	I'm sorry.
24	BY MS. BR	OWN:
25	Q.	Take a deep breath.

1	A. Okay. So yes, we did the OCR.
2	Q. Okay. And you made a complaint?
3	A. Yes.
4	Q. Did you ever make a complaint to the
5	college?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. Did you make that complaint or did your
8	mom?
9	A. Mom did on my behalf because I'm not good
10	with that kind of paperwork and
11	Q. So you went to the OCR, and what did they
12	do for you?
13	A. On the telephone mostly.
14	Q. Okay.
15	A. We didn't go to their physical office,
16	but we did through emails and phone.
17	Q. Okay. What did you tell them?
18	A. I told them about my struggles with math
19	and my autism and disabilities.
20	Q. And what did you tell them you wanted?
21	A. I wanted my degree. I wanted other
22	options than just College Algebra.
23	Q. Okay. And you were given other options
24	besides College Algebra, right?
25	A. Yes.

1	Q.	Okay. What did the OCR tell you about
2	your compl	aint?
3	A.	They told me that they would talk to
4	MGCCC abou	ıt it.
5	Q.	Okay. Do you know if they did?
6	A.	They did. But they never really told me
7	about the	resolution agreement.
8	Q.	Okay. Who never told you?
9	A.	The OCR.
10	Q.	Okay. But you know there was a
11	resolution	a agreement?
12	A.	Yes.
13	Q.	How do you know that?
14	A.	My mom told me.
15	Q.	Did you get a letter in the mail about
16	it?	
17	A.	Yes.
18	Q.	Who was that letter from?
19	A.	I I don't remember. I'm sorry.
20	Q.	It's okay.
21		Do you know what the agreement was?
22	A.	Yes.
23	Q.	What was it?
24	Α.	I only remember bits and pieces, but I
25	remember i	t was about four options on the

- 1 resolution agreement, each with different classes,
- 2 and all of them the same with algebra and different
- 3 math.
- Q. Did you ever pick one of those options?
- 5 A. Just the one with the Economics.
- 6 Q. So you picked the option with Economics?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you went and took that class, right?
- 9 A. I did.
- 10 Q. Did you tell the guy at OCR or the person
- 11 that you were communicating with at OCR that you
- 12 picked that option?
- 13 A. All I remember is -- yes, and the person
- 14 I communicated with was Craig Nydick.
- 15 Q. Craig Nydick?
- 16 A. That's all I remember.
- 17 Q. Did you tell Craig that you picked the
- 18 option with Economics?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Okay. And so you -- do you know if Craig
- 21 told the college you made a choice?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- Q. Okay. After you told Craig that you
- 24 picked that option, you went back to school and
- 25 took Economics. Is that the only class you took

1	that semester?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. Okay. Was there another class you needed
4	to take under that option?
5	A. I don't remember.
6	Q. Okay. Do you remember anything about
7	prerequisites for any of those classes?
8	A. The name sounds familiar.
9	Q. Do you know what that means,
10	"prerequisite"?
11	A. No, ma'am.
12	Q. Okay. Did you talk to Ms. Aimee about
13	the option you selected?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. Okay. Can you do you remember that
16	conversation?
17	A. No, ma'am. It's been a long time ago.
18	Q. Okay. But Ms. Aimee was going to help
19	you get through those options?
20	A. Yes.
21	Q. Okay. Now, at some point you stopped
22	talking to Mr. Craig at OCR and went to Mississippi
23	Disability Rights. Do you remember that?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Do you know why you did that?

1	Α.	Yes. Because the OCR wasn't very nice
2	people.	
3	Q.	Who wasn't very nice?
4	A.	Mr. Craig.
5	Q.	Why wasn't he nice?
6	Α.	He screamed at me over voice mail.
7	Q.	What did he scream at you?
8	Α.	He screamed at me for not trying hard
9	enough.	
10	Q.	Is that because you didn't take that last
11	class?	
12	A.	Right.
13	Q.	Okay. Do you still have that voice mail?
14	Α.	I don't think so, for me; but my mom may
15	know.	
16	Q.	Okay. When you went to Mississippi
17	Disabilit	y Rights, what happened there?
18	Α.	They tried to help us with, you know,
19	research.	
20	Q.	Okay. Did you tell them that you had
21	selected	a resolution agreement?
22	Α.	I don't remember.
23		MR. ALTMAN: Objection; form. Sorry.
24	BY MS. BR	OWN:
25	Q.	Did you tell Mississippi Disability

1	Rights ab	out the resolution agreement with the OCR?
2	A.	Yes, I think.
3	Q.	Okay. And then what did Mississippi
4	Disabilit	y Rights do for you?
5	A.	They tried to help us.
6	Q.	How did they try to help you?
7	A.	They did more research into Mississippi
8	laws abou	t disabilities.
9	Q.	Okay. Anything else?
10	Α.	That's all I can remember.
11	Q.	Who did you talk to at Mississippi
12	Disabilit	y Rights?
13	A.	My mom did most of the communication, but
14	I don't r	emember the lady's name.
15	Q.	Okay. I think I'm just about finished.
16	Okay?	
17	A.	Okay.
18	Q.	Did you ever take any programming or web
19	design cl	asses in high school?
20	A.	I did.
21	Q.	Do you remember what those classes were
22	called?	
23	A.	Web Design I and II.
24	Q.	Who was your teacher?
25	A.	Mr. Campbell.

1	Q.	Yeah? Did you enjoy those classes?
2	A.	Yes. Those were fun.
3	Q.	Those were fun?
4	A.	Uh-huh.
5	Q.	Did you do well in those classes?
6	A.	I did.
7	Q.	What kind of things did you have to do in
8	Web Desig	n I and II?
9	A.	We built websites with codes.
10	Q.	Yeah?
11	A.	Yes.
12	Q.	Those were fun?
13	A.	Those were fun. Decorating, the colors
14	of the we	bsites.
15	Q.	Did you make yourself a website?
16	A.	Like, we did assignments where we did
17	different	computer websites, yes.
18	Q.	Yeah?
19	A.	Yeah.
20	Q.	Do you have a website now?
21	A.	I do have an art shop.
22	Q.	Yeah? Is it an Etsy shop?
23	Α.	It's a Fine Art America shop. And if you
24	type in "	Maggie Russell," there's all my art.
25	Q.	Okay. So you sell art on a website?

1	А.	Yes, ma'am.
2	Q.	Okay. Do you make money from selling
3	that art?	
4	А.	Very little.
5	Q.	Do you know how much?
6	A.	No, ma'am.
7	Q.	Did you say Fine Art America?
8	A.	Yes, ma'am.
9	Q.	Did you talk to Ms. Aimee about the
10	Visual Ba	sic programming class?
11	Α.	Yes.
12	Q.	What did she tell you about that class?
13	Α.	She explained to me what was in the
14	Visual Ba	sic programming, like what kind of math it
15	had in it	and that kind of stuff.
16	Q.	Okay. Did anyone tell you you couldn't
17	do that c	lass?
18	Α.	No.
19	Q.	Okay. Do you think you're capable of
20	completing	g that class?
21	А.	No.
22	Q.	Why not?
23	A.	Because when I look at numbers, it's like
24	the Salva	dor Dali painting with the melting clock
25	numbers.	That's my head. That's how I see all of
1		

It's just an endless number of alphabet 1 my math. 2 soup to me. 3 Okay. Has it always been like that? 0. 4 Α. Yes, ma'am. But you've managed to complete some math 5 **Q.** classes, right? 6 7 Α. Some. Did you talk to Mom about not -- about 8 Q. 9 taking Visual Basic programming? 10 Α. Yes. 11 What did Mom say? Q. 12 She told me that -- too much math. Α. She 13 was right. It was too much math in there. 14 Based -- too much math based on what? 0. 15 Based -- I'm sorry. I'm -- I don't --Α. 16 How do you know there was too much math? 0. Because of the number of -- I'm sorry. 17 Α. Ι 18 don't understand the question. So you said there was too much math in 19 0. 20 Visual Basic programming. But you never took that 21 class, right? 22 Α. Right. You never signed up for it? 23 Q. 24 Α. No. 25 So you don't know --Q.

1	MR. ALTMAN: Relax. It's okay. Just
2	calm down.
3	Give her a second.
4	MS. BROWN: Sure.
5	MR. ALTMAN: Just relax. Keep answering
6	the questions like you've been doing.
7	MS. BROWN: You're doing great.
8	THE WITNESS: Okay.
9	MS. BROWN: Deep breath.
10	THE WITNESS: Okay.
11	MS. BROWN: Are you ready?
12	THE WITNESS: I'm ready.
13	MS. BROWN: Okay.
14	BY MS. BROWN:
15	Q. You don't know how much was in Visual
16	Basic programming, do you?
17	A. No, ma'am.
18	Q. Okay. Did somebody tell you you couldn't
19	do that class?
20	A. No, ma'am.
21	Q. Okay. We're here because you filed a
22	lawsuit against MGCCC.
23	
	A. Yes, ma'am.
24	Q. And in that lawsuit, you say they
25	discriminated against you.

1	Α.	Yes, ma'am.
2	Q.	Tell me how they did that.
3		MR. ALTMAN: Objection; form. You can
4	answ	er.
5	A.	One of the things was after I talked to
6	Mr. Bonfa	nti about some math, all of a sudden they
7	wouldn't	let me see Ms. Aimee. When we went to
8	Ms. Aimee	's office, I won't forget the moment she
9	said I co	uldn't come in.
10	BY MS. BRO	: NWC
11	Q.	When was that?
12	A.	It was like around 2018.
13		MR. ALTMAN: Calm down. It's okay.
14	Just	keep talking. You're doing good.
15	A.	That's just one of the things I remember.
16	BY MS. BRO	: NWC
17	Q.	So you had been to see Dr. Bonfanti?
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	Was this after the OCR complaint?
20	A.	I believe so.
21	Q.	And you talked to him about your
22	resolution	n
23	A.	Math disabilities.
24	Q.	Okay. And after you saw Dr. Bonfanti,
25	you tried	to go see Ms. Aimee?

1 Α. Yes. And she told you she couldn't talk to 2 0. 3 you? 4 Α. Correct. Okay. Do you know why she told you that? 5 0. 6 Α. She told me that we couldn't talk about 7 math anymore or anything. 8 Q. But she didn't tell you why? 9 No. Α. 10 That was one of the reasons you 0. Okay. 11 said they discriminated. Are there others? 12 I feel like -- hold on. Let me breathe Α. 13 for a minute. 14 Take your time. 0. 15 Α. All right. I'm ready. 16 0. Okay. 17 Α. Another reason I feel like they 18 discriminated against me is because they never 19 reduced the number of questions on my paper. In what class? 20 Q. 21 Α. Mostly Beginning Algebra, Intermediate 22 Algebra, and College Algebra. All of them had the same numbers of questions. Like, I remember one 23 test had 40 questions, when it was supposed to be 24 25 reduced to like 20 or ten questions.

1	Q.	Who told you it was supposed to be 20 or
2	ten quest	ions?
3	А.	From my accommodations.
4	Q.	Okay. That you requested?
5	А.	Yes.
6	Q.	Was it in writing that they were supposed
7	to be ten	or 20 questions?
8	А.	It was in writing.
9	Q.	From whom?
10	А.	I don't know who; but I just remember the
11	writing.	
12	Q.	Anything else that you say is
13	discrimin	ation?
14	Α.	Besides those, that's all I can remember.
15	Q.	Do you still want your associate's degree
16	from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College?	
17	А.	Yes.
18	Q.	Are you willing to take one more class to
19	do that?	
20	А.	No, ma'am.
21	Q.	All right. I think if we can take a
22	quick break	
23	А.	Okay.
24	Q.	we're just about finished.
25	Α.	Okay.

```
(Off the record.)
 1
 2
     BY MS. BROWN:
 3
                I think two more questions.
          0.
 4
          Α.
                Okay.
                Okay? You're doing good?
 5
          Q.
 6
          Α.
               Doing good.
 7
                You're doing great so far.
          Q.
 8
          Α.
               Okay.
                Recently, after you filed this lawsuit,
 9
          0.
     we talked some more about an additional
10
11
     accommodation. Do you remember that?
12
          Α.
                No, ma'am.
13
               Were you ever told about another course
          0.
14
     you could take that you could do at your own pace?
15
          Α.
                No.
16
                Okay. Don't have any knowledge about
          0.
17
     that?
18
          Α.
                I don't remember.
19
                Okay. Do you know that the college is
          0.
20
     willing to let you come do one of those two courses
21
     and not charge you for it to finish your degree?
22
                I -- no, ma'am.
          Α.
               You didn't know that?
23
          Q.
24
          Α.
                I don't remember.
25
               You don't remember that?
          Q.
```

MAGGIE RUSSELL vs MISS. GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE Maggie Russell - 03/29/2023

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1
           That's all I have, Maggie.
 2
     Α.
           Okay.
           You did awesome.
 3
     Q.
 4
     Α.
           Thank you.
 5
           MR. ALTMAN:
                         Good job, Maggie.
                          Thank you.
 6
           THE WITNESS:
        (Deposition concluded at 11:24 a.m.)
 7
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1
               CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
 2.
          I, Kati Voqt, RPR, RMR, CRR, RDR, Court
 3
     Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of
     Harrison, State of Mississippi, hereby certify:
 4
 5
          That on the 29th day of March, 2023, there
     appeared before me MAGGIE RUSSELL;
 6
 7
          That I placed the witness under oath to
     truthfully answer all questions in this matter
 8
     under the authority vested in me by the State of
 9
10
     Mississippi;
11
          That the foregoing 54 pages, and including
12
     this page, contain a full, true, and correct
13
     transcript of the testimony of said witness, as
     reported by me using the stenotype reporting
14
     method, to the best of my skill and ability.
15
          I further certify that I am not in the employ
16
17
     of, or related to, any counsel or party in this
18
     matter, and have no interest, monetary or
     otherwise, in the final outcome of the proceedings.
19
          Witness my signature and seal, this the 20th
20
21
         of April, 2023.
     day
22
23
     Kati Vogt, RPR, RMR, CRR, RDR
     My Commission Expires January 4, 2026
24
25
```

1	ERRATA SHEET		
2	I, MAGGIE RUSSELL, do solemnly swear that I have read the foregoing transcript and that the same is a true and correct transcript of the testimony given by me on the 29th day of March,		
3			
4	2023, at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, with the following corrections:		
5	Page: Line: Correction: Reason for		
6	Correction:		
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15 16			
17	MAGGIE RUSSELL		
18	NOTARIZATION		
19	Subscribed and sworn to before me, this		
20	day of, 2023.		
21			
22	NOTARY PUBLIC		
23	MY COMMISSION EXPIRES:		
24			
25			